

SATURDAY .... MARCH 3, 1906 too late!

"Too late? What do you mean? Have you dared to ask her to be your wife?" Had Karloff held her arm at this moment, he would have comprehended many things.

"No, no! My word has gone forth to my government; there is a wall behind me, and I can not go back. To stop means worse than death. My property will be confiscated and my name obliterated, my body rot slowly in the frozen north. Oh, I know my country; one does not gain her gratitude by failure. I must have those plans, and nowhere could I obtain such perfect ones"

"Then you will give her up?" There was a broken note.

The count smiled. To her it was a smile scarce less than a snark

"Give her up? Yes, as a mother gives up her child, as a Honess her cub. She has refused me, but nevertheless she shall be my wife. Oh, I am wellversed in human nature. She loves her father and I know what sacrifices To-night!-" But his lips suddenly

"Well, to-night? Why do you not go on?" Mrs. Chadwick was pale. Her gloved hands were clenched. in its shaking grasp.

"Nothing, nothing! In heaven's name, why have you stirred me so?" he cried. "Supposing, after all, I loved you?"

He retreated. "Madam, your su positions are becoming intolerable a impossible.

Nothing is impossible. Supposi I loved you as violently and passio ately as you love this girl?"

"Madam,"-hastily and with gentleness, "do not say anything which may cause me to blush for you; say nothlag you may regret to-morrow,"

"I am a woman of circumspection. My suppositions are merely argumentative. Do you realize Count, that I could force you to marry me?"

be equaled. "Force me to marry you?" "Is the thought so distasteful, then?" "You are mad to-night."

"Not so. In whatever manner you have succeeded in this country, your debt of gratitude is owing to me. I do not recall this fact as a reproach; I make the statement to bear me on in what I have to submit to your discerning intelligence. I doubt if there is another woman, here or abroad, who knows you so well as I. Your personal honor is beyond impeachment but Russia is making vast efforts to speckle it. She will succeed. Yes, a word I could tumble your house of without wit and address. I possess To some you have signed your name. If you have kept mine, you will obve that my given name might mean any one of a thousand women who are named 'Grace.' Shall you marry me? Shall I tumble your house of cards? him that if he delivers these plans to ter financial ruin, but his name would

descend to his daughter untarnished." "You would not dare!" the count interrupted.

"What? And you know me so well? I have not given you my word to rebecause you had proved me. Man is Karloff." She lifted from a vase her "Laws have been passed or annulled; laws have died at the executive desk. Who told you that this was to be, or that, long before it came to to the truth of things, pass? In all the successful intrigues



"IT IS WAR, THEN?

you to thank? Me. Ordinarily a woman does not do these things as a pastime. There must be some strong motive behind. You asked me why I have stirred you so. Perhaps it is because you, but I love you too well to permit you to marry Miss Annesley."

certain nobility.

Surely there was wisdom in that smile of mine. And I nearly tumbled into

the pit! I must have looked exceedingly well . . . that night!"drily.

"You are very bitter to-night. Had you taken me at my word, I never should have looked at Miss Annesley. And had I ceased to love you, not even you would have known it." "Is it possible?"-ironically.

"It is. I have too much pride to permit a woman to see that I have nade a mistake." "Then you consider in the present nstance that you have not made a

mistake? You are frank." "At least I have not made a mistake which I can not rectify. Madam, let us not be enemies. As you say, I owe it as good as any he had ever tasted. | able old fellow, full of stories of the you too much. What is it you desire?"

-with forced amiability. "Deprive Col. Annesley of his honor, that, as you say, is inevitable; but I love that girl as I would a child of my own, and I will not see her caught turned his attention to his partridges. deep affection, martinet though he was,

magnificent only in that it gives all a loss upon which to draw for support, without question. You love this girl Here he was, in a devil of a fix, and with reservations. You shall not have no possible way of escaping except by here. You shall not have even me who my eyes you would always be an accomplice."

"It is war, then?"-curtly "War? Oh, no; we merely sever

our diplomatic relations," she purred. | going to begin now, "Madam, listen to me. I shall make one more attempt to win this girl honshe would make to save his honor, orably. For you are right; love to

an outcast, a man without a country, away! He might have been a guest something to say to everybody else; If she refuses me, I shall go on to the to-night; he might have sat next to and a butler was only a machine anyspasm of some sort seemed to hold her end. Speak to the colonel, madam; it her, turned the pages of her music, way. Yet, three persons occasionally too far. Why did you open the way of which would have been very proper Mrs. Chadwick and the girl; each from for me as you did? I should have been and conventional. Ah, if he only knew a different angle of vision. There was the fault is yours."

not realize how much you were to the imposture. Alackaday!

ot understand you."

riage is waiting. Let us be gone." me," said the count, as he threw her cloak across her shoulders.

Karloff's astonishment could not laugh, and eat, and gossip. Let the his capital could at any time be con- sideboard. (How I should have liked marriage he used to say fer a good the mask is ours to do with as we would be no longer the goose with the | When the butler took away the soup-

CHAPTER XVII.

DINNER IS SERVED.

"Ha!" Monsieur Pierre, having uttered this ejaculation, stepped back and rested his fat hands on his fat hips. As he surveyed the impromptu butler, a shade of perplexity spread over fils oily I could force you to marry me. With frowned. This groom certainly looked face. He smoothed his imperial and right, but there was something lacking eards. I am a worldly woman and not in his make-up, that indefinable some every one of your letters, most of all true servant-servility. There was no thing which is always found in the have I treasured the extravagant ones. humility here, no hypocritical meekness, no suavity; there was nothing smug or self-satisfied. In truth, there sudden bold scrutiny, was not to be understood readily. Monsieur Pierre, having always busied himself with soups and curries and I could go to Col. Annesley and say to roasts and sauces, was not a profound you, I shall denounce him to the secret ness at once told him that this fellow was no servant, nor could he ever be made into one. Though voluble enough in his kitchen, Monsieur Pierre lacked expression when confronted by any problem outside of it. Here was the regulation swallow-tail coat and trousers of green, the striped red vest, veal nothing. You confided in my rare and the polished brass buttons; but this morning ought not to be afraid of tain's part. Well, this cub said he'd quality of silence; you confided in me the man inside was too much for him. a dinner-table."

"Diable! You luke right. But no, not infallible, even when he is named I can not explain. Eet ees on zee dinner-table and a horse, Miss." He tongue, but eet rayfuse. Ha! I haf eet! stooped to recover the fork while she flowers, from which she shook the You lack vot zay call zee real. You make me t'ink uf zee sairvant on zee chief. The situation was becoming stage, somet'ing bettair off: eh?" unendurable. He knew that for some This was as near as monsieur ever got reason, she was quietly laughing at

During this speculative inventory, of Russia in this country, whom have Warburton's face was gravely set; or piece of silver that has fallen to The whisky they poured into my He was grave. He even wanted Pierre's clean one. approval. He was about to pass through a very trying ordeal; he might not even pass through it. There was no deceiving his colonel's eyes, hang drop of the burgundy. It is '78, and once in a while, that was all he ever him! Whatever had induced fate to a particular favorite of my father's." force this old Argus-eyed soldier upon the scene? He glanced into the kitchen mirror. He instantly raw the salient during the past ten months! The he never let up till he got it." flaw in his dress. It was the cravat, glands in his teeth opened at the mem-Tie it as he would, it never approached ory of that taste. the likeness of the conventional cravat of the waiter. It still remained a pol- of paying off the servants on this day ished cravat, a worldly cravat, the of the month. Payday comes especialcravat seen in ball-rooms, drawing- ly happy this time. It will put good anywhere but in the servants' hall, vastly more expeditious." Oh, for the ready-made cravat that I hitched to the collar-button! And then notes from a roll in her hand and have left the reservation alive. He there was that servant's low turned- signified him to approach. He took was certainly a cool hand." down collar, glossy as celluloid. He | the money, coolly counted it, and put felt as diffident in his bare throat as it in his vest pocket. a debutante feels in her first decollette ball-gown, not very well covered up, as it were. And, heaven and earth, pointed, but I assert that she was lips. how appallingly large his hands had slightly disconcerted She never knew grown, how clumsy his feet! Would the effort he had put forth to subdue the colonel expose him? Would he the desire to tear the money into found out; wherein lay the terror of the house.

I am neither two-and-twenty nor you Pierre, after a pause, feeling that he in the usual place, the lower drawer two-score. It is these little barbs that had a duty to fulfill and a responsibil- in the sideboard." With a swish she remain in a woman's heart. Well, I ity to shift to other shoulders than his was gone. do not love you well enough to marry own, "remembair, eef you spill zee soup, I keel you. You carry zee tureen it. No, he wouldn't tear it up; rather in, zen you deesh out zee soup, and he would put it among his keepsakes. "That has the sound of war. I did sairve. Zee oystaires should be on zee love you that night,"-not without a table t'ree minutes before zee guests Zhames, to recover his tranquillity, and haf arrive,. Now, can you make zee describe to you the character and qual-American cocktail?"

wave of the hand toward the favorite ican countess, a famous dramatist, and ingredients. 'What kind?"

hattan and the martini." before serving."

palate, liqueurs and wines. He found parative stranger. But he was a like-

I learn. Now leaf me till eight. Keep known in polite circles as the bore's

my own, and I will not see her caught in a net of this sort, or wedded to a man whose government robs him of his manhood and individuality."

"Do not forget that I hold my country first and foremost,"—proudly.

"Love has no country, nor laws, nor galling chains of incertitude. Love is magnificent only in that it gives all without question. You love this girl. Here he was in a devil of a fix and butler. The first thing he did was to breath of fresh ald and to collect his thoughts, which were wool-gathering, whatever that may mean. They needed collecting, these thoughts of had set it aside untouched, and had emptied the oyster shells, when the ordeal of the soup began. Very few of those seated gave any attention to my butler. The first thing he did was to

never look upon you as a husband; in the wouldn't bolt, not if he stood the story in an exceptionally taking man-

to tell this girl that he loved her? How pale, that moment it was zed, be love must be magnificent. If she to appear to her as his natural self? as I remarked, few observed him accepts me, for her sake I will become What a chance he had wilfully thrown Why should they? Everybody had is too late. Like mycelf, he has gone and perhaps sighed love in her ear, all looked in his direction; his late colonel, atisfied with a discontented clerk, what was going on behind those Med- a scowl on the colonel's face, puzzle-You threw this girl across my path, iterranean eyes of hers, those heavenly ment on Mrs. Chadwick's, and I don't ndirectly, it is true; but nevertheless sapphires. Had she any suspicion? know what the girl's represented, not No, it could not be possible; she had having been there with my discerning "I recognize it. At that time I did humiliated him too often, to suspect eyes.

"You are a strange woman. I do reputable terms he applied to himself a handsome butler!" ot understand you."
"Incompatibility. Come, the car- When he became out of breath, he re- his mustache and shrugged. He had entered the house to have a final look seen handsome peasants before. They

"On the contrary, I have added a ling cut-glass. He wondered how much butler, who had successfully completed peculiar zest. No, let us go and ap- the girl was worth, and thought of his the distribution of the soup and who pear before the world, and smile, and own miserable \$4,500 the year. True, now stood with folded arms by the heart throb with a duli pain, if it will; verted into cash, some \$75,000, but it to see him!) They were, in my opinion, two very stood on a glass center-piece. As he leaned toward them to inhale their per- pick up that butler?" fume he heard a sound. He turned. | Annesley looked vaguely across the

fit in sunlit corners of gloomy studios; nothing. beauty, youth, radiance, luster, happiness. To his ardent eyes she was supremely beautiful. How wildly his got that butler of your heart beat! This was the first time he "Oh, Betty found him somewhere. had seen her in all her glory. His Our own butler is away on a vacation. emotion was so strong that he did not I had not noticed him, Why?" observe that she was biting her nether

asked, meaning the possibilities of ser-

"Very well, Miss Annesley,"-with a

it had the effect of making hers turn devil if there ever was one." aside. He grew visibly nervous, "You haven't the hands of a servant, James,"-quietly.

He started and knocked a fork to "They are too clumsy," she went on and observed him interestedly.

maliciously. "I am not a butler, Miss; I am a

shame on his face.

"There is some difference between a

touched her lips with her handkerunendurable. He knew that, for some

indeed, it pictured his exact feelings. the floor," she advised. "Procure a cub-

"Yes, Miss." Why in heaven's name

many a bottle of that superb vintage he set his mind on getting something,

"James, we have been in the habit rooms, in the theater stalls and boxes, feeling into all, and make the service

She counted out four ten-dollar "Thank you, Miss."

I do not say she looked disap-This remained to be shreds, throw it at her feet and leave birds. The girl's eyes followed h'

"When the gentlemen wish for ci-"Remembair," went on Monsiour gars or cigarettes, you will find them He took the money out and studied

I shall leave Mr. Robert, or M'sieu ity of the guests. There was the af-"I can,"-with a ghost of a smile. fable military attache of the British "Make heem,"-with a pompous embassy, there was a celebrated Amer-

his musical wife, Warburton's late commanding colonel, Mrs. Chadwick, "Vot kind! Eez zare more cocktails, Count Karloff, one of the notable grand opera prima-donnas, who would not other day. "Do you suppose we can "Only two that are proper, the man- sing in opera till February, a cabinet officer and his wife, Col. Annesley and "Make zee martini; I know heem." his daughter, You will note the cosmo-"But cocktails ought not be mixed politan character of these distinguished persons. Perhaps in no other "I say, make zee one cocktail,"- city in America could they be brought coldly and skeptically. "I test heem," together at an informal dinner such as Warburton made one. Monsieur this one was. There was no question sipped it slowly, making a wry face, of precedence or any such nonsense for, true Gaul that he was, only two Everybody knew everybody else, with kinds of stimulants appealed to his one exception Col. Raleigh was a com-"Ver' good,"-softening. "Zare ees wild, free west, an excellent listener zen, one t'ing zat all zee Americans can | besides, who always stopped a goodly make, zee cocktail? I am educate'; distance on the right side of what is zee collect head,"-and Monsieur Pierre | dead-line. Warburton held for him a

loves you after a fashion, for I could absolutely bolting; and he vowed that Raleigh believed that he had told his chance of being exposed 50 times over, ner. My butler quietly procured another He had danced; he was going to pay ladle, and proceeded coolly enough.

the fiddler like a man. He had never must confess, however, that his coolran away from anything, and he wasn't ness was the result of a physical effort. The soup quivered and trem-At the worst, they could only laugh bled outrageously, and more than once at him; but his secret would be his no he felt the heat of the liquid on his longer. Ass that he had been! How thumb. This moment his face was

Once the American countess raised Had any one else applied the dis- her lorgnette and murmured: "What

"You have spoilt the evening for at the table before the ordeal began. | did not interest him. He glauced across Covers had been laid for 12; immac- the table at the girl, and was much anulate linen, beautiful silver, and spark- noved that she, too, was gazing at the

> golden egg. A great bowl of roses plates, Col. Raleigh turned to his host, "George, where the deuce did you cago Daily News.

She stood framed in a doorway, a table at his old comrade. He had been picture such as artists conjure up to far away in thought. He had eaten "What?" he asked.

"I asked you where the deuce you

"Well, if he doesn't look like a cub lieutenant of mine, I was born "Is everything well, James?" she without recollection of faces."

"An orderly of yours, a lieutenant, vice and not the cardiac intranquility did you say?" asked Betty, with smol- 8. e is to be married again."-Houston dering fires in her eyes.

"That is strange," she mused.

"Yes; best bump of location in the regiment, and the steadlest nerve."-

dropping his voice The girl leaned on her lovely arms

"A whole company got lost in a snowstorm. You know that on the groom. I promise to do the very best prairie a snowstorm means that only Wrath mingled with the a compass can tell you where you are; and there wasn't one in the troop-"A man who can do what you did a bad piece of carelessness on the cap find the way back, and the captain wisely let him take the boys in hand. "Go on," said the girl.

"Interested, eh? "I am a soldier's daughter, and I love

the recital of brave deeds." "Well, he did it. Four hours later they were thawed out in the barracks kitchen. Another hour and not one of Never put back on the table a fork them would have lived to tell the tale.

"Did he drink?" she interrupted. "Drink? Why the next day he was didn't she go and leave him in peace? going to lick the men who had poured "And be very careful not to spill a the stuff down his throat. A toddy took. And how he loved a fight! He Seventy-eight! As if he hadn't had had the tenacity of a bulldog; once The girl trifled thoughtfully with a

> "Was he ever in an Indian fight?" she asked, casually.

"Only scraps and the like. He went into the reservation alone one day and arrested a chief who had murdered a sheep-herder. It was a volunteer job and nine men out of ten would never

"I dare say,"-smiling. She wanted to ask him if he had ever been hurt, this daredevil of a lieutenant, but she could not bring the question to her "What did you say his name was?"-innocently

"Warburton, Robert Warburton," Here the butler came in with th alther and thither her lips hidden hind the rose.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Began at Tome. Mabel-I understand he married hi first love. Gertrude-But how can a man marr himself?-Cassell's.

Candi(e)d. He-That Miss Oldum seems to b very sweet. She-Sweet? Oh, you mean well preserved. M'ves.

A bashful young couple, who were evidently very much in love, entered a crowded street car in Boston the squeeze in here?" he asked, looking

doubtfully at her blushing face. "Don't you think, dear, we had better wait until we get home?" was the low, embarrassed reply-Life.

Guarded Criticism. "Have you read my new book of poems?" asked the long-haired per-

"In a way, yes," answered the practical man. "And, while I am no judge of such things, I think that the title There's nothing does the thing like bakpage to that book is one of the best arranged and most tasteful I have -Clevelard Lender. ever seen."-Carrell's Journal.

From Matrimony. A fellow who cace had secoded Met a lady who also said sheded.

WAS SHORT OF CHANGE.



"I've just mended that hole in your received any encouragement. trousers pocket "How the dickens did you ever know It was there?"

College Presidents.

Let the Other Fellow Worry. Flannery-What rint do they charge for a house like yours?

Finnegan-Sivin pounds. Flannery-My, that's high. Don't ye have throuble gettin' it together? Finnegan-Paith, Oi don't, but the

Strenuous Treatment. eny mo'? Why, befo' soon after de wife yu was de record.

Lucinda-Yeas, en now he comes home en tries to beat de record.-Chi-

Imagination. Sandy-Gritty George went up de road an' told all de ladles in de wayside cottages dat I once had a castle in Fine Tailoring Dusty-Gee! Wid such a press agent

as dat yer ought to git on de stage .-Chicago Dally News. Proof. "Did Mrs. Oglamug's husband leave

her well provided for?" "He left her fabulously rich." "How do you know?" "I see by the latest society news that

An Opp rtune Reminder. Rivers-What have you got that string tied around your finger for? Brooks-By Georgel I'm glad you mentioned it. That's to remind me to ask you for the fiver I lent you a

month ago.-Tit Bits. "It must have been a great shock to that high financier to be called on to

"It was. The shock was so great that his mind become a blank"-Washmeton Star.

testify.

Yes, So It Will. "John, you said before we were mar-

ried that you'd give up anything for Johnny, that the Lord sees everything "Yes-s, I blieve I did."

bonnet. "But a bonnet is not you."

"No, but it will become me."-Houston Post.

Makes Things Rise. "A sleeping powder makes you go to Ricep."
Said Jones, "but is there any 'waking pow-der?"

"Oh, yes," said Mrs. Jones. "If you would

PERHAPS NOT.



I have never indulged in flirtation Miss Grace-Oh, perhaps you never

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Fond Mother-Don't you know, you do? He is always present. Johnny-That's all right, ma. "Then give me some money for a don't care, 'cause He never tells.-Puck.

Simple Faith.

Mrs. Slowe-1 am so glad your brother enjoyed his visit to us, Mr. Greene. Mr. Greene-Oh, he is the sort of youngster who can enjoy himself anywhere, you know. Cassell's Journal.

Cholly-He and I had quite a long talk to-day, and I told him just what I thought.

Miss Pepprey-Ah, then he did nearly all the talking, ch?-Philadelphia

An Idea of Vivisection. Bacon-Do you believe in the vivi-

section of dogs? Egbert-Well, if we have to have 'em in sausage meat, the finer they are cut up the better. - Yeakers Statesman,

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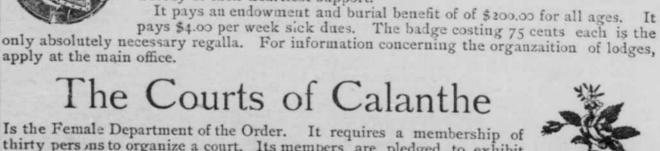
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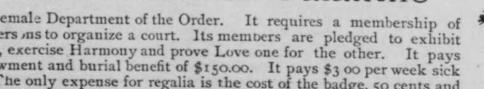
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